

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS, DECEMBER 12, 1941

The Board of Public Works met on December 12, 1941, in the office of the Governor, State House, Annapolis, Maryland.

There were present: Herbert R. O'Connor, Governor
 J. Millard Tawes, Comptroller
 Hooper S. Miles, Treasurer

Mr. Walter N. Kirkman, Director of the Department of Budget and Procurement, also attended the meeting.

The Governor called this meeting for the purpose of acquainting the members of the Board with the situation as to National Defense matters.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT:

Brig. General Dwight H. Mohr and Adj. General Francis Petrott were present to discuss with the Board the matter of finances relating to maintaining and equipping the Home Guard.

The Governor stated that he had been in close touch with the situation and was conferring with the United States Army officials relative to the work to be done by the State in connection with Defense activities. He stated that the Guard had been called out early Friday morning, December 12th, and from representations he had received, everything was working smoothly. He stated that as to the protection which would be required by private interests, this would have to be taken care of by the owners of private property. It is not expected, at this time, to use any of the Home Guard to protect industrial plants and other private property where the owners feel protection might be needed. The Governor further stated that the local governmental units would be expected to furnish whatever protection might be necessary for local government property until such time as it was felt something else should be done.

The Governor further advised that under our laws, it was permissible to appoint special policemen and that he had issued quite a number of commissions conferring special police authority on the employees of corporations and concerns where these persons were undertaking to protect their property. He further stated that it was important to protect the water and health services of the State and that for this purpose men from the Guard had been assigned to protect the water supply at Pretty Boy Dam and at Loch Raven; and, that the members of the Guard were on duty protecting State property at several places, including Annapolis. Also, such protection would be provided wherever necessary.

General Mohr stated that he had been in conference with the United States officers and was securing the co-operation of the United States Government, through them, by way of receiving adequate equipment, including overcoats, blankets, shoes, ammunition, clothing, etc, but that at this time the position of the Federal Government was that they could not supply any men for Guard work.

The matter of finances was discussed and the question of compensation insurance to cover the members of the Guard was brought up. It was stated by General Petrott that such insurance could be obtained from an insurer other than the State Accident Fund at the rate of \$2.19 per \$100.00 of payroll. Some question was raised as to the authority of the State Accident Fund to write this insurance and while it had been tentatively stated that the law would not permit the State Accident Fund to write this insurance, it was felt that there was some provision in law which had not been considered which would be sufficient authority for the writing of the insurance by the State Accident Fund. It was suggested that this question be looked into so that this insurance be written by the State Accident Fund rather than by an outside agency, if possible.

In considering the expense of maintaining the Guard while on duty, including salaries to the members and their maintenance while on duty, it was felt that it would cost approximately \$45,000 a month to take care of the expense of one battalion consisting of four companies of 71 men and one platoon of 25 men, while on active duty. General Mohr stated that all of the members of the Guard had been called out on the initial call, but that it was the plan to retain on active duty only such men as it was found necessary to properly take care of the State's interest and that it would take a week or two until this adjustment could be completed.

In considering the funds available to take care of this expense, it was agreed that the balance of approximately \$29,000 remaining unexpended in the budget of the Military Department for the fiscal year 1941 and which was carried forward would be available and that it would be possible to use approximately \$40,000 of the budget of the Military Department for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1942. In addition, there are some funds available from the appropriation of \$100,000 to the Board of Public Works in the General Bond Issue of 1941 for the purpose of the Maryland Council of Defense and that it might be possible to have available for the expenses of the Guard, while on duty, approximately \$30,000. It was felt that with these sums of money available, it would be possible to take care of the expenses of the Guard for a reasonable time and that it was not necessary, at this time, to take any steps looking toward appropriating further money.

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GENERAL BOND ISSUE OF 1941:

The Governor brought to the attention of the Board the question of the January 15, 1942 installment of the General Bond Issue of 1941 and suggested that because of it not being practicable to proceed with some of the construction work contemplated by the funds provided in that installment, we should not issue the entire installment but should reduce it to an amount which would provide funds necessary to take care of the cost of contracts already authorized and such other work and the purchase of equipment, as it is desired to proceed with as being necessary for the purposes of the State.

Mr. Kirkman and Mr. McCusker were requested to review the situation and recommend the items which should be eliminated at this time, it being the understanding that the Board would obtain the authority to issue at a later date any part of the installment which it might be desired to withhold issuing at this time.

HALL OF RECORDS:

The question of the protection of valuable documents and records located in the Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland, was discussed and the expense of transferring these records to a place of safety was considered.

It was suggested that since the work of editing and publishing early county records would be deferred, the appropriation of \$5,000 in the budget of the Hall of Records Commission for the fiscal year 1942, would be available for the expense of doing some necessary work to prepare one of the discontinued mines in Western Maryland for the storage of these records and for the transportation of them from Annapolis to the mine.

Mr. Kirkman was requested to look into this matter, with a view to arranging with the Hall of Records Commission for the obtaining of the use of the Mine, and the work which might be necessary in making the space ready for use and the transfer of the records from Annapolis.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT:

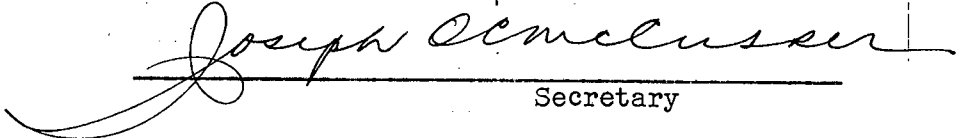
The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a communication from the War Department, Office of the Constructing Quartermaster, United States Army, Baltimore, Maryland and Vicinity, in which the approval of the Board was requested for the construction of a Dyke across Colgate Creek on the prolongation of Broad Street at Holabird Quartermaster Depot, Baltimore, Maryland.

It was stated in the letter that the land on both the North and the South side

of Colgate Creek is owned by the United States Government, and is a portion of the Holabird Q. M. Depot, Baltimore, Maryland. One set, three prints per set, of prints of tracings prepared to obtain approval from The Secretary of War, of plans of a dyke to cross navigable waters of the United States, was submitted with the letter.

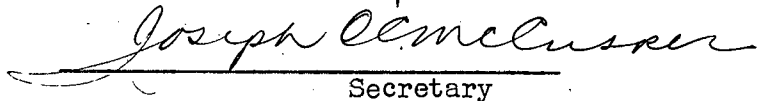
The Board felt there could be no objections to the construction of the dyke as proposed, and approved the request for permission to construct it.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.


Secretary

**** MILITARY DEPARTMENT:**

The matter of employees of the State of Maryland who are members of the Home Guard was discussed and it was decided that in the case of employees who are members of the Home Guard, such employees would continue to receive their State salaries while on active duty and that where these salaries exceeded the compensation due them for their Guard duty, the Military Department would not make payment to them of any amounts which might otherwise be due them for Guard service. As to employees whose Guard pay would be in excess of the compensation due them as salary for the positions they hold in the State service, the amount of salary due them would be deducted from the amount due for Guard service.


Secretary